

## Highlight News / January 16, 2023



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**Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)**

## Mainland China largest merchandise trading partner of Cambodia in 2022



*Cambodia News | 15 January, 2023*

Mainland China was Cambodia's largest merchandise trading partner last year, with a volume of \$11.686 billion—up by 4.39 per cent over the 2021 figure. The former's exports to the latter accounted for 89.38 per cent share—up by 2.87 percentage points on a yearly basis, according to Cambodia's general department of customs and excise (GDCE). This market represented 22.29 per cent of Cambodia's total global merchandise trade for the year, which was worth \$52.425 billion. China was the largest exporter to Cambodia, with a 34.89 per cent market share, or equivalent to \$10.446 billion—up by 7.86 per cent year on year. It constituted a 5.52 per cent share of Cambodia's total exports, at \$1.241 billion, which was down by 17.85 per cent from the 2021 figure. Cambodia's trade deficit with mainland China grew by 12.61 per cent, from \$8.174 billion in 2021 to \$9.205 billion in 2022. Fibre2Fashion News Desk (DS)

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501219676/mainland-china-largest-merchandise-trading-partner-of-cambodia-in-2022/>

## Cambodia forecasts 4.6 million air passengers in 2023 after China's reopening



*Cambodia News | 15 January, 2023*

Cambodia is expected to attract 4.6 million air passengers in 2023 after China's optimization of its pandemic control policies on January 8, a spokesman said on Saturday. State Secretariat of Civil Aviation's

Undersecretary of State and Spokesman Sin Chansereyvutha said the Southeast Asian nation received 28,900 flights with 2.38 million passengers last year. "For 2023, we predict that the number of air passengers will be doubled thanks to China's reopening," he told Xinhua. "Cambodia is ready to welcome the return of Chinese people, tourists, business people and investors as they are key contributors to tourism and socio-economic development in the kingdom," he added. Chansereyvutha said currently, 27 airlines, including six airlines from China, have been operating flights in and out of Cambodia. "We expect that there will be more airlines and flights from China in the near future," he said. Cambodian Tourism Minister Thong Khon said the kingdom is projected to attract at least 1 million Chinese tourists in 2023, an expected increase from merely 110,000 in 2022. "China is the most important outbound tourism market for the world, so China's resumption of outbound tourism is very beneficial not only to Cambodia, but also to the whole world," he told Xinhua.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501219669/cambodia-forecasts-4-6-million-air-passengers-in-2023-after-chinas-reopening/>

## S. Korea donates rice for use by impoverished communities



*Laos News | 16 January, 2023*

The Republic of Korea on Friday donated 1,314 tons of rice for distribution to 100,000 people across the country. The donation will help people in times of hardship, as everyone feels the crunch of straitened financial circumstances and food shortages. Korea continues to donate rice for distribution to the most

vulnerable populations. For the second year in a row, a consignment of rice, worth about US\$1.26 million, has arrived at the warehouse in Vientiane for use by impoverished people in Laos. Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr Yung Soo Jung, handed over the rice donation to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Mrs Baykham Khattiya, at the United Nations World Food Programme's (WFP) warehouse in Vientiane. Laos, already challenged by high malnutrition rates, is particularly vulnerable to socio-economic shocks and to the effects of climate change, including floods and droughts, which cause losses of harvests and livelihoods. The donation will be used to pilot a national emergency rice reserve for improved targeting of vulnerable populations in times of food shortages, as well as to provide emergency rice rations to disadvantaged children in ethnic boarding schools and schools for persons with disabilities. Speaking at the handover ceremony, Mrs Baykham said the donation from the Republic of Korea will continue to benefit those in remote areas where natural disasters are most likely, as well as some of the most disadvantaged young people in the country. Ambassador Jung said the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has provided emergency rice to countries through the World Food Programme since 2018. "Laos has been a beneficiary of this support since 2021, and we are very keen to keep strengthening food security with our support, which is in line with our Republic's Indo-Pacific Strategy and our focus on solidarity between Korea and

Asean countries," he said. WFP Country Director and Representative Mr Jan Delbaere said "We value the expanding relationship we have with the Republic of Korea, which is swiftly becoming one of our most important donors. With Korean rice, WFP was able to provide emergency food assistance to help 10,091 people in Xayaboury province recover from the impacts of tropical storm Koguma in 2021, and to top up school meals food rations for 84,000 schoolchildren, strengthening the government's School Meals Programme. This year's rice donation will again be strategically allocated to help the populations most in need around the country.

Source:[https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2023\\_Skorea10.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2023_Skorea10.php)

## 7 projects of LMC Special Fund launched in Myanmar



*Myanmar News | 14 January, 2023*

YANGON, Jan. 14 (Xinhua) -- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar has launched seven projects of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund (2022), the state-run media reported on Saturday. Speaking at the launching ceremony on Friday, the country's Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Aung Gyi said that the projects will promote the socioeconomic development and living status of the rural people in Myanmar. The projects cover rubber pressing, quality sugarcane production, sesame seed production and freshwater fish farming. The country's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and

Irrigation has a total of 31 LMC Special Fund projects, with the cumulative budget of more than 10 million U.S. dollars in five batches, according to the ministry. China initiated the LMC Special Fund in 2016 with the aim of supporting the small and medium-sized cooperation projects put forward by the six Lancang-Mekong countries. The six Lancang-Mekong countries comprise China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand.

Source:<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230114/1c970beba0fe46949a2f8f02f3c745d5/c.html>

## Electronic firms continue to shift investment to Vietnam



*Vietnam News | 14 January, 2023*

Hanoi (VNA) – In continuation of moving their production hubs, this year many of the giants in the world of technology and electronics have announced business expansion plans in Vietnam. Recently, Apple revealed that it will move its MacBook production chain to Vietnam in 2023. It has asked Foxconn, its biggest supplier, to launch a MacBook production chain in Vietnam from May this year, while making plans to produce Mac Pro in Vietnam. In 2025, about 20% of the total number of iPads and Apple Watches will be produced in Vietnam, along with 5% of the MacBook and 65% of the AirPods. Currently, 25 out of the 190 partners of Apple are running their factories in Vietnam. Foxconn, after investing 1.5 billion USD in Vietnam, plans to invest additional 300 million USD

in Fukang factory in Quang Chau industrial park in Bac Giang province. Another Apple's supplier, Goertek has announced its additional 300 million USD investment in Bac Giang. Meanwhile, Lxshare, which will assemble iPhone 15 Pro Max, is running six factories in Vietnam with a total of 40,000 labourers. At the same time, computer producer Dell is striving to make sure all of its chips are produced outside China. Electronics firm Pegatron is also building a factory worth about 481 million USD in Hai Phong, while moving its R&D centre from China to Vietnam at a suitable time. Many other big companies such as OPPO, HP and Brose are also considering the relocation of production plants to Vietnam, while others, including Xiaomi, Bosch, Panasonic, Amkor, Sharp and Compal, also plan to expand its business presence in the country. Particularly, Korean firm Samsung, after pouring 18 billion USD and launching Southeast Asia's largest R&D centre in Vietnam, also plans to raise its investment in Vietnam to 20 billion USD in the coming time. Another Korean electronics company, LG, is also making plans to inject additional 4 billion USD in Vietnam. Dr. Ho Quoc Tuan, a lecturer at Bristol University, commented that Vietnam is benefiting from the diversification of production locations of international businesses. Experts attributed the phenomenon to Vietnam's advantages such as low-cost workforce, and the country's engagement in 15 free trade

agreements covering more than 50 countries, as well as Vietnam's political stability./

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/electronic-firms-continue-to-shift-investment-to-vietnam/247004.vnp>

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## Positive signals for rice exports in 2023



*Vietnam News | 15 January, 2023*

Hanoi (VNA) – Vietnam exported nearly 7.2 million tonnes of rice worth 3.49 billion USD last year, including many shipments navigating demanding markets such as Japan and the European Union (EU). Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Minh Hoan said the sales signaled that Vietnamese rice has gained better quality, from choosing varieties for cultivation and standardisation to meet requirements of each market. Aware of the need to build long-term business strategies, major rice exporters such as Trung An Hi-tech Farming JSC and Loc Troi Group have teamed up with farmers and cooperatives in material zones to generate stable and quality rice supply. Vice Chairman of the Vietnam Food Association Do Ha Nam said thanks to jasmine and high-quality rice, Vietnam won a number of markets and recorded fast growth in demanding markets such as the US and the EU. Many firms already received orders until April or even the third quarter of this year. The VFA forecast that domestic rice exporters have a distinct advantage this year thanks to high rice prices and

huge demand from China, the Philippines and Africa. The Philippines, the biggest importer of Vietnamese rice, has decided to maintain import tax of 35% this year. Meanwhile, the second Vietnamese rice importer - China - will lift its zero-COVID policy and reopen its borders with Vietnam, Nam said./

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/positive-signals-for-rice-exports-in-2023/246674.vnp>

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